

MEMORANDUM

TO: Educational Facilities in the Niagara Region

FROM: Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services Infectious Disease program

REFERENCE: Novel Coronavirus (COVID- 19) Update

DATE: February 13, 2020

Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services (NRPH&ES) is closely monitoring the outbreak caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The health and well-being of our residents is our top priority and we continue to work with our provincial and federal health partners in response to this new virus. As this is an evolving situation, we continue to remind staff and parents/caregivers of the importance of using credible sources to stay informed. We continue to update our website frequently as new information is confirmed. Parents/caregivers can be directed to visit niagararegion.ca/health.

Risk to the public is still low

The risk of getting this virus continues to be low in Niagara because there is no evidence of community spread in Canada. Any person who is suspected or tested for the virus is immediately isolated. Their close contacts are very closely followed and isolated if they develop any symptoms.

Many educational facilities have reached out to ask us for information on this situation, and given that many students may be travelling in the coming weeks, we are providing the following information:

Recommendations for travellers from Hubei Province

If you have travelled to Hubei Province in the last 14 days:

- Limit your contact with others for a total of 14 days from the date that you left Hubei Province. Please self-isolate and stay at home.
- Contact Public Health (PH) within 24 hours of arriving in Canada at **1-888-505-6074** or **905-688-8248 ext. 7330**

Recommendations for travellers from mainland China

If you have travelled from mainland China in the last 14 days:

- Monitor yourself for respiratory symptoms including fever, new cough and difficulty breathing
- Should these respiratory symptoms develop within 14 days after leaving mainland China, contact your health care professional or PH immediately
- Inform your health care professional or call PH about your symptoms and travel history **before** seeking medical care so we can discuss the most appropriate transportation options and site for testing

Screening of travellers at the entry to Canada

Canada has a number of standard border measures in place to prevent the entry of infectious diseases in Canada. All international travellers arriving in international airports are being asked additional screening questions to determine if they have visited mainland China. If they develop symptoms, they are told to remain home and call their health care professional or PH to avoid exposing others. Symptoms of the virus occur within 14 days after being exposed.

Prevention

Members of the public are advised to take the usual measures to reduce the risk of respiratory illness, including:

- **Stay home if you're sick**
Return to work or school when you're well
- **Wash your hands often**
Use soap and water or hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- **Cover your cough or sneeze**
With a tissue or into your sleeve. Increase cleaning and disinfection of surfaces.
- **Keep your distance**
Avoid shaking hands and close contact with people who are sick.
- **Avoid sharing personal items**
Especially those that come into contact with saliva, such as toothbrushes and eating utensils.
- **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Prior to travelling, check the Public Health Agency of Canada – [Travel Advice and Advisories](https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories) website (<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>) for up-to-date travel information.

For further information, please go to www.niagararegion.ca/health or contact NRPH&ES Infectious Disease program at 1-888-505-6074 or 905-688-8248 ext. 7330 Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.